AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A network level admission control apparatus for a set of networks comprising a first network, ~~not~~ using ~~an IP~~ a protocol at a sub-IP level ~~protocol~~, comprising border routers interconnected by links associated with resources of known characteristics and managed by a first network management system, the apparatus comprising:

control means fed by said first network management system with data representative of said links between border routers of said first network and of said resources;

wherein said control means

receives a request to transfer a call via said first network, said call being associated with at least one service criterion and designating a second network connected to said first network and of a different type than said first network;

determines, using said data, whether available resources exist that satisfy said at least one service criterion; and

if said resources exist, forwards said call transfer request to a second control apparatus connected to a second network management system managing said second network;

wherein said resources are booked only if said resources are available so as to satisfy said at least one service criterion in each of the networks servicing said call.

2. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said service criterion is selected from a group comprising at least quality of service, ability to protect/restore

a link, and security.

3. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said quality of service is defined by at least one parameter selected from a group comprising at least passband, delay, losses, and jitter.

4. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein some of said data specifies a mode of management for a link by said first network management system.

5. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said modes are selected from a group comprising at least VPN, optical VPN, and IPSec.

6. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein some of said data defines restoration links and associated resources.

7. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:

memory, in which said control means stores received data in the form of a connectivity matrix between border routers of the first network.

8. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means are coupled to third control apparatus connected to a third network management system managing a third network connected to the first network and of a different type, and from which said call transfer request comes.

9. (previously presented): The apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein at least one of said second and third networks uses an IP level protocol.

10. (previously presented): The apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein at least one of said second and third networks uses a protocol at sub-IP level.

11. (previously presented): A network equipment apparatus adapted to be connected to a network management system managing a network using a protocol at sub-IP level, the apparatus comprising:

at least one network level admission control apparatus according to claim 1.

12. (previously presented): A method for network level admission control, comprising:

employing the apparatus according to claim 1 in sub-IP networks selected from a group comprising space-division switching networks, WDM networks, TDM networks, and GMPLS networks.